



# WASHOE COUNTY

"Dedicated To Excellence in Public Service"

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CM/ACM   
Finance   
DA   
Risk Mgt N/A  
HR N/A  
Other N/A

## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 8, 2016

**DATE:** February 23, 2016

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Robert Smith, Animal Services Manager  
Phone: 353-8945; email: [rasmith@washoecounty.us](mailto:rasmith@washoecounty.us)

**THROUGH:** Shyanne Schull, Director of Animal Services

**SUBJECT:** Second Reading and possible adoption of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by creating provisions regulating commercial animal establishments (through an animal welfare permit); by adding related definitions; and by making changes to the definition of "County" and all other matters properly relating thereto. (Bill No. 1760) (All Commission Districts)

### SUMMARY

The Washoe County Commission held the first reading of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by creating provisions relating to commercial animal establishments (through an animal welfare permit).

Washoe County Code Chapter 55 was rewritten to create a unified animal control ordinance which was adopted on June 14, 2005 in accordance with the Interlocal Agreement entered into by the Cities of Reno and Sparks and the County of Washoe to effectuate the consolidation of animal services in the County. In accordance with that Interlocal Agreement and the consolidated ordinances, animal services have been provided on a regional basis now in excess of nine years. It is based on this experience, revision to State Statutes and public input during this time that these amendments to Chapter 55 are being proposed.

- NRS 244.189 provides that the board of county commissioners may exercise such powers and may enact such ordinances not in conflict with Nevada statutes for, inter alia, the control and protection of animals.
- NRS 244.359 provides that the board of county commissioners may enact and enforce ordinances fixing, imposing and collecting an annual license fee on dogs and providing for the capture and disposal of all dogs on which the license fee is not paid; regulating or prohibiting the running at large and disposal of all kinds of animals; establishing a pound, appointing a pound keeper and prescribing his duties; prohibiting cruelty to animals; and

AGENDA ITEM # 11

designating an animal as inherently dangerous and requiring the owner of such an animal to obtain a policy of liability insurance for the animal in an amount determined by the board of county commissioners. Any such ordinances may apply throughout the entire county or govern only a limited area within the county.

- The Washoe County Board of Commissioners and the City Councils of the City of Reno and City of Sparks consolidated animal control functions in Washoe County to be on a regional basis. The consolidation of animal control services was accomplished by the adoption of ordinances of the three jurisdictions approving an interlocal agreement among the cities of Reno and Sparks and Washoe County which regionalized all field services, including, but not limited to, licensing, enforcement, rabies control, kennel permitting and related administrative functions relating thereto under the jurisdiction and control of Washoe County. The final step in the consolidation process occurred on June 14, 2005 when the Washoe County Board of Commissioners adopted the ordinance which amended Washoe County Code Chapter 55 in compliance with the interlocal agreement for the consolidation of animal services. Since that date, animal services within Washoe County has been operated and provided on a regional basis. We now have over nine years of regional operational experience.
- It is the intention of this Ordinance to enact and revise sections to Washoe County Code Chapter 55 based upon that experience and public input.

**County priority/goals:** Safe, secure and healthy communities; Public participation and open, transparent communication.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On April 22, 2014 the Washoe County Commission approved the establishment of Washoe County Regional Animal services as a stand-alone department.

On June 17, 2014 the Washoe County Commission authorized initiation of proceedings to amend Washoe County Code (Chapters 5 and 55) related to the creation of the Department of Regional Animal Services.

On July 22, 2014 the Washoe County Commission received an update on the public input process regarding Washoe County Code Chapter.

On December 8, 2015 the BCC voted to send the code back to staff for modification based on public comment and to bring it back for a first reading.

On February 23, 2016 the BCC introduced and held the first reading of Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by creating provisions regulating commercial animal establishments (through an animal welfare permit); by adding related definitions; and by making changes to the definition of "County" and all other matters properly relating thereto.

### **BACKGROUND**

The proposed code was co-written by Regional Animal Services and the City of Reno Code Enforcement in response for the need to provide oversight and enforcement within commercial animal establishments in Washoe County, the City of Reno and the City of Sparks and to create

an animal welfare permit process, therefore requiring Washoe County to amend WCC Chapter 55.

The County Managers Office and Washoe County Regional Animal Services (WCRAS) initially met with OnStrategy to plan the public input process for the proposed code amendments. A first step in the public input process was to share proposed revisions with key stakeholder groups including the Cities of Reno and Sparks and major animal groups in our community to include but not limited to the SPCA, NHS and Pet Network. Through individual meetings with staff input was received from these groups regarding the proposed code amendments.

An online comment process "Open Washoe" was utilized from July 7, 2014 to August 18, 2014 to establish priorities for ordinance workshops, to raise awareness of the code issues and obtain a broad range of input on topics important to the public. The unique feature of this community engagement tool is to allow visitors to the site the ability to read all the comments posted by their fellow citizens, as well as the ability to agree or disagree.

During the public input process there were numerous media releases and targeted email notifications encouraging the public to give input on the amendments as well as several news stories, print articles and radio shows discussing the changes and encouraging public input, which resulted in additional input being received via phone calls and emails.

This process was implemented to raise awareness of the community issues and to ensure the widest range of public input. The unique feature of this community engagement tool is to allow visitors to the site the ability to read all the comments posted by their fellow citizens, as well as the ability to agree or disagree.

At key points during the public input process, new questions regarding the code revisions were posted and the proposed code amendments were edited based upon public input and these changes were then posted on "Open Washoe" for citizens to review.

Additionally, links to "Open Washoe" were added to the Animal Services web page and an email account [animalcode@washoecounty.us](mailto:animalcode@washoecounty.us) was created for the public to communicate their comments and concerns specific to proposed Code changes.

As stated previously, a workshop was held at the Wilbur D May Museum on August 27, 2014 to discuss Commercial Animal Establishments (retail sales), promoting an opportunity for the public to ask questions and give input on the proposed amendments. During this workshop, staff had an opportunity to meet one-on-one with many citizens and address concerns as well as receive valuable input. 40 citizens spoke at the public workshop on Commercial Animal Establishments (retail sales), in addition to public comments through "Open Washoe. A summary of the public input received online and through the workshops is attached along with the specific detailed correspondence provided from all public input.

Additionally, policies obtained from the American Veterinary Medical Association for the care and keeping of animals has been submitted with this staff report to outline the examples of care expected to be given to animals within commercial animal establishments.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners hold a second reading and adopt an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by creating provisions regulating commercial animal establishments (through an animal welfare permit); by adding related definitions; and by making changes to the definition of “County” and all other matters properly relating thereto.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board approve, a possible motion would be:

Move to adopt an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by creating provisions regulating commercial animal establishments (through an animal welfare permit); by adding related definitions; and by making changes to the definition of “County” and all other matters properly relating thereto.

SUMMARY: An ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by creating provisions regulating commercial animal establishments (through an animal welfare permit) and revising definitions.

BILL NO. 1760

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING WASHOE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 55 BY CREATING PROVISIONS REGULATING COMMERCIAL ANIMAL ESTABLISHMENTS (THROUGH AN ANIMAL WELFARE PERMIT); BY ADDING RELATED DEFINITIONS; AND BY MAKING CHANGES TO THE DEFINITION OF "COUNTY".

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF WASHOE DO ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Chapter 55 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding thereto the following new section which shall read as follows:

**55.455 Commercial animal welfare permit.**

**1. Commercial animal establishments must obtain a welfare permit from regional animal services.**

**(a) No commercial animal welfare permit may be transferred or assigned between persons, between commercial animal establishments, or between a person and a commercial animal establishment.**

**(b) A commercial animal establishment must maintain a welfare permit for each individual location.**

**(c) Upon a commercial animal establishment's change of ownership or location, a new inspection and welfare permit is required.**

**(d) A commercial animal establishment shall house and care for its animals in accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Welfare Principles and related policies, and the provisions of this section.**

**(e) A commercial animal establishment shall comply with regional animal service's rules and records retention requirements, including, but not limited to, maintaining proof of insurance, health records, and other conditions necessary to preserve the health and safety of the animals and the public.**

**(f) The commercial animal welfare permit must be displayed in a conspicuous place within the commercial animal establishment.**

**(g) Veterinarians and/or veterinary hospitals are regulated by the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and are exempt from this section.**

2. All commercial animal establishments shall submit an application for a commercial animal welfare permit to regional animal services.

3. Regional animal services shall review the application and certify that the commercial animal establishment has been inspected and is in compliance with all animal welfare permit requirements. Regional animal services shall also notify the appropriate jurisdiction(s) of Washoe County, the City of Reno and/or the City of Sparks of the welfare permit status.

4. Regional animal services shall inspect each commercial animal establishment annually, and shall verify that the commercial animal establishment holds a valid business license.

(a) A certificate of occupancy for the appropriate jurisdiction or an approved business license may be accepted as evidence that the commercial animal establishment is in compliance with the local jurisdiction's licensing requirements.

5. All commercial animal establishments shall renew their welfare permit(s) annually.

6. In addition to the requirements set forth in NRS 574.360 through 574.510, inclusive, which outline the duties of operators, retailers and dealers, a commercial animal establishment shall:

(a) Maintain records for a minimum of two years after the date of sale, transfer or other disposition of the dog or cat identified by the record, which records shall be readily available for inspection by any animal control officer.

(b) Allow animal control officers to enter the premises for unscheduled inspections during normal business hours.

(c) Ensure that the walls and floors of enclosures are constructed of nonabsorbent, nonporous material impervious to moisture, and are adequate to support the animal without sagging and to prevent injury.

(d) Ensure that all dogs and cats are kept in an isolation room or isolation area for a minimum of 72 hours before being released to a purchaser.

(e) Observe each animal daily in order to identify general symptoms of injury, illness or disease.

(f) Ensure that any dog or cat that exhibits symptoms of injury, illness or disease is kept in an isolation room or isolation area and treated by a veterinarian. The veterinarian shall verify that the dog or cat is healthy before such dog or cat can be offered for sale.

(g) Ensure that each dog or cat over the age of 3 months is not sold without a valid rabies vaccination.

(h) Establish and maintain a written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC). The attending veterinarian must visit the facility on a regular basis, i.e., often enough to provide adequate

oversight of the facility's care and use of animals. The PVC must include method(s) of euthanasia, which should be consistent with the current American Veterinary Medical Association's Guidelines on Euthanasia.

(i) Provide a hand sanitizer and require members of the public to sanitize their hands prior to and after handling any animals in order to reduce the risks of transmission of disease.

(j) Dispose of animal carcasses in accordance with NRS 571.200 and NAC 571.200.

7. Revocation of commercial animal welfare permit. If a permittee violates this section or any other law of the State of Nevada or ordinance of Washoe County pertaining to animal welfare, regional animal services may revoke the commercial animal welfare permit in accordance with the procedures and penalties set forth in section 55.800.

(a) A commercial animal establishment located within the boundaries of the City of Reno shall maintain a City of Reno business license. If, at any time, the City suspends or revokes the business license, the City shall notify regional animal services and the commercial animal welfare permit shall be suspended or revoked.

(b) A commercial animal establishment located within the boundaries of the City of Sparks shall maintain a City of Sparks business license. If, at any time, the City suspends or revokes the business license, the City shall notify regional animal services and the commercial animal welfare permit shall be suspended or revoked.

(c) If the permittee fails to comply with any conditions imposed on the welfare permit, regional animal services may suspend or revoke the permit. If regional animal services suspends or revokes a welfare permit, the permittee shall be advised in writing of the reason(s) therefor and may appeal that decision to the administrative hearing office no later than 14 days after receiving the written notice. A failure to appeal the suspension or revocation within 14 days precludes further administrative or judicial review.

(d) Upon the filing of an appeal, the administrative hearing office shall hold a hearing on the appeal as soon as practicable.

(e) The administrative hearing officer may hear any testimony and admit any evidence he or she deems necessary. All proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with WCC 55.800(6) through 55.800(17), inclusive.

(f) The hearing officer's decision sustaining, reversing, or sustaining with conditions the suspension or revocation shall be transmitted in writing to the appellant within 14 working days.

(g) Any permittee aggrieved by the hearing officer's decision

may appeal that decision by filing a petition for judicial review in the district court within 30 days of the hearing officer's decision. The commercial animal welfare permit shall remain in place until a decision is rendered by the district court.

SECTION 2. Section 55.010 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding thereto the following new definitions:

"Ambient Temperature" means the temperature of the environment immediately surrounding the animal.

"Commercial animal establishment" means any pet store, kennel or boarding facility used for the business of buying, selling or boarding animals.

"Dealer" has the meaning as described in NRS 574.260, and as it may be amended from time to time.


"Isolation area" means a location where potentially infected animals can be separated from other animals for the period of time to control disease transmission, under such conditions as to prevent direct or indirect conveyance of the infectious agent from spreading to other animals.

"Isolation room" means a separate room in which conditions are established to control and contain the transmission of disease, such as, but not limited to, contamination from feces and bodily secretions, mites, and arthropod vectors, and which has a separate air supply with ventilation to the outside with no admixture in the general circulation.

"Operator" has the meaning as described in NRS 574.290, and as it may be amended from time to time.

"Retailer" has the meaning as described in NRS 574.320, and as it may be amended from time to time.

SECTION 3. Washoe County Code 55.010 is hereby amended by changing the definition of "County" as follows:

  
County means all **the area** of Washoe County ~~including the areas comprising the incorporated City of Sparks and incorporated City of Reno~~ **as defined by NRS 243.0430**, and as it may be amended from time to time.



[Business Impact Note: The Board of County Commissioners hereby finds that this ordinance does not impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, nor does it directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business.]

Proposed on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Proposed by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_.

Passed on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

SUMMARY: An ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 55 by creating provisions regulating commercial animal establishments (through an animal welfare permit) and revising definitions.

BILL NO. 1760

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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1. Commercial animal establishments must obtain a welfare permit from regional animal services.

(a) No commercial animal welfare permit may be transferred or assigned between persons, between commercial animal establishments, or between a person and a commercial animal establishment.

(b) A commercial animal establishment must maintain a welfare permit for each individual location.

(c) Upon a commercial animal establishment's change of ownership or location, a new inspection and welfare permit is required.

(d) A commercial animal establishment shall house and care for its animals in accordance with the American Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Welfare Principles and related policies, and the provisions of this section.

(e) A commercial animal establishment shall comply with regional animal service's rules and records retention requirements, including, but not limited to, maintaining proof of insurance, health records, and other conditions necessary to preserve the health and safety of the animals and the public.

(f) The commercial animal welfare permit must be displayed in a conspicuous place within the commercial animal establishment.

(g) Veterinarians and/or veterinary hospitals are regulated by the Nevada State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners and are exempt from this section.

2. All commercial animal establishments shall submit an application for a commercial animal welfare permit to regional animal services.

3. Regional animal services shall review the application and certify that the commercial animal establishment has been inspected and is in compliance with all animal welfare permit requirements. Regional animal services shall also notify the appropriate jurisdiction(s) of Washoe County, the City of Reno and/or the City of Sparks of the welfare permit status.

4. Regional animal services shall inspect each commercial animal establishment annually, and shall verify that the commercial animal establishment holds a valid business license.

(a) A certificate of occupancy for the appropriate jurisdiction or an approved business license may be accepted as evidence that the commercial animal establishment is in compliance with the local jurisdiction's licensing requirements.

5. All commercial animal establishments shall renew their welfare permit(s) annually.

6. In addition to the requirements set forth in NRS 574.360 through 574.510, inclusive, which outline the duties of operators, retailers and dealers, a commercial animal establishment shall:

(a) Maintain records for a minimum of two years after the date of sale, transfer or other disposition of the dog or cat identified by the record, which records shall be readily available for inspection by any animal control officer.

(b) Allow animal control officers to enter the premises for unscheduled inspections during normal business hours.

(c) Ensure that the walls and floors of enclosures are constructed of nonabsorbent, nonporous material impervious to moisture, and are adequate to support the animal without sagging and to prevent injury.

(d) Ensure that all dogs and cats are kept in an isolation room or isolation area for a minimum of 72 hours before being released to a purchaser.

(e) Observe each animal daily in order to identify general symptoms of injury, illness or disease.

(f) Ensure that any dog or cat that exhibits symptoms of injury, illness or disease is kept in an isolation room or isolation area and treated by a veterinarian. The veterinarian shall verify that the dog or cat is healthy before such dog or cat can be offered for sale.

(g) Ensure that each dog or cat over the age of 3 months is not sold without a valid rabies vaccination.

(h) Establish and maintain a written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC). The attending veterinarian must visit the facility on a regular basis, i.e., often enough to provide adequate

oversight of the facility's care and use of animals. The PVC must include method(s) of euthanasia, which should be consistent with the current American Veterinary Medical Association's Guidelines on Euthanasia.

(i) Provide a hand sanitizer and require members of the public to sanitize their hands prior to and after handling any animals in order to reduce the risks of transmission of disease.

(j) Dispose of animal carcasses in accordance with NRS 571.200 and NAC 571.200.

7. Revocation of commercial animal welfare permit. If a permittee violates this section or any other law of the State of Nevada or ordinance of Washoe County pertaining to animal welfare, regional animal services may revoke the commercial animal welfare permit in accordance with the procedures and penalties set forth in section 55.800.

(a) A commercial animal establishment located within the boundaries of the City of Reno shall maintain a City of Reno business license. If, at any time, the City suspends or revokes the business license, the City shall notify regional animal services and the commercial animal welfare permit shall be suspended or revoked.

(b) A commercial animal establishment located within the boundaries of the City of Sparks shall maintain a City of Sparks business license. If, at any time, the City suspends or revokes the business license, the City shall notify regional animal services and the commercial animal welfare permit shall be suspended or revoked.

(c) If the permittee fails to comply with any conditions imposed on the welfare permit, regional animal services may suspend or revoke the permit. If regional animal services suspends or revokes a welfare permit, the permittee shall be advised in writing of the reason(s) therefor and may appeal that decision to the administrative hearing office no later than 14 days after receiving the written notice. A failure to appeal the suspension or revocation within 14 days precludes further administrative or judicial review.

(d) Upon the filing of an appeal, the administrative hearing office shall hold a hearing on the appeal as soon as practicable.

(e) The administrative hearing officer may hear any testimony and admit any evidence he or she deems necessary. All proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with WCC 55.800(6) through 55.800(17), inclusive.

(f) The hearing officer's decision sustaining, reversing, or sustaining with conditions the suspension or revocation shall be transmitted in writing to the appellant within 14 working days.

(g) Any permittee aggrieved by the hearing officer's decision

may appeal that decision by filing a petition for judicial review in the district court within 30 days of the hearing officer's decision. The commercial animal welfare permit shall remain in place until a decision is rendered by the district court.

SECTION 2. Section 55.010 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding thereto the following new definitions:

"Ambient Temperature" means the temperature of the environment immediately surrounding the animal.

"Commercial animal establishment" means any pet store, kennel or boarding facility used for the business of buying, selling or boarding animals.

"Dealer" has the meaning as described in NRS 574.260, and as it may be amended from time to time.

"Isolation area" means a location where potentially infected animals can be separated from other animals for the period of time to control disease transmission, under such conditions as to prevent direct or indirect conveyance of the infectious agent from spreading to other animals.

"Isolation room" means a separate room in which conditions are established to control and contain the transmission of disease, such as, but not limited to, contamination from feces and bodily secretions, mites, and arthropod vectors, and which has a separate air supply with ventilation to the outside with no admixture in the general circulation.

"Operator" has the meaning as described in NRS 574.290, and as it may be amended from time to time.

"Retailer" has the meaning as described in NRS 574.320, and as it may be amended from time to time.

SECTION 3. Washoe County Code 55.010 is hereby amended by changing the definition of "County" as follows:

County means all the area of Washoe County as defined by NRS 243.0430, and as it may be amended from time to time.

[Business Impact Note: The Board of County Commissioners hereby

finds that this ordinance does not impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a business, nor does it directly restrict the formation, operation or expansion of a business.]

Proposed on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Proposed by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_.

Passed on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

# ***Washoe County Regional Animal Services Notice for Proposed Code and Fee Changes & BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT***

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Washoe County is considering amendments to Chapter 55 and to the Animal Services Fee Schedule.

The proposed amendments to the Washoe County Ordinance (WCC Chapter 55) are in response to new State Laws enacted by the 2011 and 2013 Nevada Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. In addition, requested changes from the City of Reno, the public and the creation of Regional Animal Services as a Department within Washoe County. The proposed amendments, which affect your business, include:

- Adding definitions;
- Modifying definitions; and,
- Creating a permit structure with appropriate permit requirements.

The proposed amendment to the WCC 55 is to establish a permit and permit fee to regulate the care and keeping of animals in commercial establishments located within Washoe County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks. The proposed permit fee is \$100.00 per year.

State Law requires that Washoe County prepare a Business Impact Statement to address any potential fiscal impacts of the proposed new permit fees for businesses within the jurisdiction.

Copies of the proposed WCC Chapter 55 amendments pertaining to your business and permit fee are attached and additional copies may be obtained at:

Regional Animal Services  
2825 Longley Lane, suite A  
Reno, NV 89502

**As a business owner or manager, you are encouraged to review the proposed amendments and provide written data or arguments pertinent to the proposed amendments before July 30, 2014.**

You are invited to attend the public meeting outlining the ordinance review process on **July 15, 2014 at 5:30 pm**.

The public meeting will be held at:

## **Washoe County Commission Chambers**

Washoe County Administrative Complex, Building A,  
1001 East Ninth Street, Reno

If you have any questions, please contact Animal Services at 775-353-8900 or at [pets@washoecounty.us](mailto:pets@washoecounty.us).

## Proposed code addition

### §5455 Commercial Animal Permit

1. Commercial animal establishments must be inspected by and be permitted by the Animal Services Manager or his designee.

- a) No commercial permit may be transferred or assigned between persons, between commercial animal establishments, or between a person and a commercial animal establishment.
- b) Each separate and distinct commercial animal establishment owned by the same person or entity, must possess an individual location permit.
- c) Upon a change of location or ownership of a commercial animal establishment, a new inspection and permit is required prior to any operational changes.
- d) Each commercial animal establishment is subject to inspection by an Animal Control Officer anytime during normal business hours.
- e) The commercial animal establishment permit must be displayed in a conspicuous place.
- f) No commercial animal establishment may sell a cat or dog over the age of 3 months old to any person without a valid rabies vaccination.
- g) Veterinarian or veterinary hospitals are exempt from this provision.

2. All commercial animal establishments, except Veterinarians and Veterinary Hospitals, are required to submit an application for commercial animal establishment to Regional Animal Services.

3. Upon initial application, Regional Animal Services must review and certify that the commercial animal establishment has been inspected and is in compliance with all zoning requirements and ordinances of Washoe County, the City of Reno or the City of Sparks. A certificate of occupancy for the appropriate jurisdiction or approved business license may be accepted as evidence that the commercial animal establishment is in compliance with the local jurisdiction.

- a) Regional Animal Services is hereby authorized to create an internal permit application process with rules, records requirements and retention including, but not limited to, proof of insurance, health records, and any other conditions deemed necessary to preserve the health and safety of the animals and the public.
- b) The records required by 3(a) shall be maintained at the commercial animal establishment for a minimum of two years after the date of sale, transfer or other disposition of the dog or cat addressed by the record, and shall be readily available for inspection by any animal control officer.

4. Except as otherwise established, a permit is renewable annually upon inspection.

5. Commercial permits granted to circus, performing animal exhibitions, or animal exhibits are valid for the duration of the event not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of issuance.

6. Circuses, performing animal exhibitions, or animal exhibits may request limited permission to possess prohibited animals within the jurisdiction of Regional Animal Services for the duration of the commercial permit.

**Comment [a1]:** For discussion

Suggested language provided by Beverlee McGrath  
Legislative Liaison for NV Animal Groups

"Prohibiting the sale of Commercially bred dogs,  
cats and rabbits in pet stores."

**Comment [a2]:** This is a new section to address  
the issues with pet stores and exotic animal shows.

Wording is a collaboration between the County,  
Reno and Sparks.



- a) Possession of a prohibited animal under this section is exempt from the provisions of 55.650. Regional Animal Services is hereby authorized to create internal permit application rules including, but not limited to, proof of insurance, health records, USDA exhibitors permit and any other conditions deemed necessary to preserve the health and safety of the public. Each prohibited animal possessed is required to be separately permitted."

7. In accordance with the provisions of NRS 574 duties of Operators, the Board hereby adopts NRS 574.360 thru 574.510 Inclusive. In addition to the requirements in subsection 7 an Operator shall ensure:

- a) the walls and floors of enclosures shall be constructed of nonabsorbent, nonporous materials impervious to moisture. If wire or grid flooring is used it must be made of powder coated or plastic coated wire and be of adequate gauge to support the animal(s) without sagging and to prevent the animals' feet from passing through the openings.
- b) All dogs and cats received for resale shall be kept in an isolation room for a minimum of 120 hours before being released to a purchaser. Each animal shall be observed daily by the licensee or his representative in order to recognize general symptoms of injury, illness or disease.
- c) Any dog or cat that exhibits symptoms of injury, illness or disease shall be kept in an isolation area or isolation room and treated as prescribed by a veterinarian. Any such dog or cat shall be verified by a veterinarian to be healthy before such dog or cat can be offered for sale.
- d) Facilities which do not have a full-time attending veterinarian must have a written Program of Veterinary Care (PVC). The attending veterinarian must visit the facility on a regular basis, i.e., often enough to provide adequate oversight of the facility's care and use of animals. The PVC must include the method(s) of euthanasia for the animals, which should be consistent with the current AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia (<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>).
- e) To reduce the risks of the transmission of diseases, all commercial animal establishment that allow for the handling of animals by the public must provide a hand sanitizer for the public and require hand sanitizing prior to and after handling the animals.
- f) Disposal of animal carcasses shall be followed in accordance with NRS 571.200 and NAC 571.200.

8. A commercial animal establishment is prohibited from the selling dogs or cats obtained from a source other than an acceptable procurement source. Acceptable Procurement Sources are:

- a) Humane groups organized as legal entities in accordance with NRS 574.010 thru 574.040 Inclusive.
- b) USDA licensed dealers.

9. Revocation of Permit for commercial animal establishment. Any single violation of this section or violation of any other law of the State of Nevada or violation of any other Washoe County ordinance shall constitute a violation of the commercial animal permit and permit shall be subject to revocation by the Regional Animal Services.

- a). Any commercial animal establishment residing within the boundaries of the City of Reno shall maintain a City of Reno business license. If at any time the City suspends or revokes the business license, the City shall notify Regional Animal Services and the Commercial animal permit shall be suspended or revoked as applicable.

b). Any commercial animal establishment residing within the boundaries of the City of Sparks shall maintain a City of Sparks business license. If at any time the City suspends or revokes the business license, the City shall notify Regional Animal Services and the commercial animal permit shall be suspended or revoked as applicable.

c) Operators who have been denied a permit or whose permit has been revoked may, by default or otherwise, may, in accordance with 55.800, seek judicial review, thereof by filing a petition for judicial review in the district court within 10 days of the denial or revocation and said petition must be personally served upon respondent within 30 days of filing.

**Commercial Animal Establishment** means any pet store, circus, performing animal exhibitions, animal exhibits, zoological park and kennels or boarding facilities, used for the business of buying, selling, housing or boarding or exhibiting of animals.

Comment [SRA3]: For new code section 55.455

**isolation** means the separation, for the period of communicability, of infected animals from others in such place and under such conditions as to prevent the direct or indirect conveyance of the infectious agent from those infected to those which are susceptible or which may spread the agent to others.

Comment [a4]: New reference 55.455

**isolation room** means a separate room located where conditions can be established to adequately control or contain modes of transmission of disease such as (but not limited to) contamination with feces and bodily secretions, mites, and arthropod vector and . having a separate air environment exhausting outside with no admixture in the general circulation

Comment [a5]: New reference 55.455